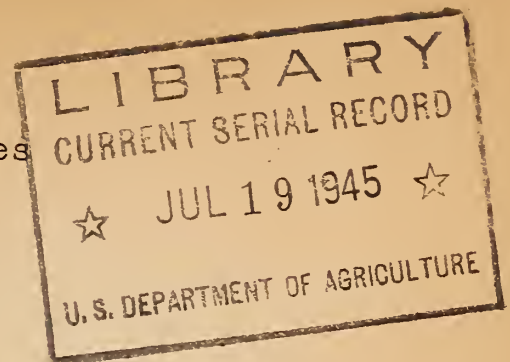


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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
150 Broadway
New York 7, N.Y.



. . . "THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT" . . .
(For Immediate Broadcast)
May...1945

It's May on the Agricultural Front...time for spring planting...and time to be thinking about what to grow in the Victory Garden. Today's farm news is varied...and interesting. First, I want to tell you about the goals for the Fall pig crop, then about the new dairy payment rate schedule. We'll discuss the 1945 farm census...storage apples...and finally, just a word about Victory Gardens.

First on the docket today are the new goals for the Fall pig crop. This year, the national goal has been set at 37 million head. This is an increase of nearly six million pigs over the fall crop of 1944...which was the smallest on record since 1940.

In setting suggest state goals of sows to farrow, consideration was given to various factors. First, the feed supply situation on farms this spring was taken into account...The geographical shifts in hog production in recent years were considered...and so were the historical records of pig production in the pre-drought years of the mid-thirties. Also, consideration was given to the probable feed acreage this year... as well as needed increases in feed supplies in different areas.

If this national goal is attained...it will mean breeding about 900 thousand more sows than last year. This will reduce this summer's

slaughter supply of hogs by the same number...and it will mean a decrease in the summer pork supply of about 200 million pounds. But most of those sows would be available for slaughter next winter...and they'd yield about 225 million pounds of meat then.

And speaking of hog production...the War Food Administration last week raised the ceiling on weights of hogs under the price support program. The new weight ceilings have already gone into effect. The weights of the hogs eligible under the price support program have been increased to 300 pounds...a boost of 30 pounds over the former ceiling. This measure was taken by the War Food Administration because of the relatively favorable feed situation...and also, with an eye to the ever-increasing need for fats and oils.

And now, here's some news of special interest to dairy farmers. The new dairy payment rates, which were announced tentatively in February by the War Food Administration have now gone into effect...and they have been extended through the first three months of next year, with the approval of the Office of Economic Stabilization.

The new dairy payment rate schedule allows for substantial increases in the rates of payment on butterfat...bringing them to a level slightly higher than ~~one-fourth~~ of the national average payment rates on milk. It also provides for increases of 10 cents per hundredweight in the rates previously announced for whole milk delivered in July, August and September. And, the new schedule allows for extension of the regular winter rates on both milk and butterfat from October of this

through March of 1946. The increases in the butterfat payments make the milk and butterfat proportionate to each other.

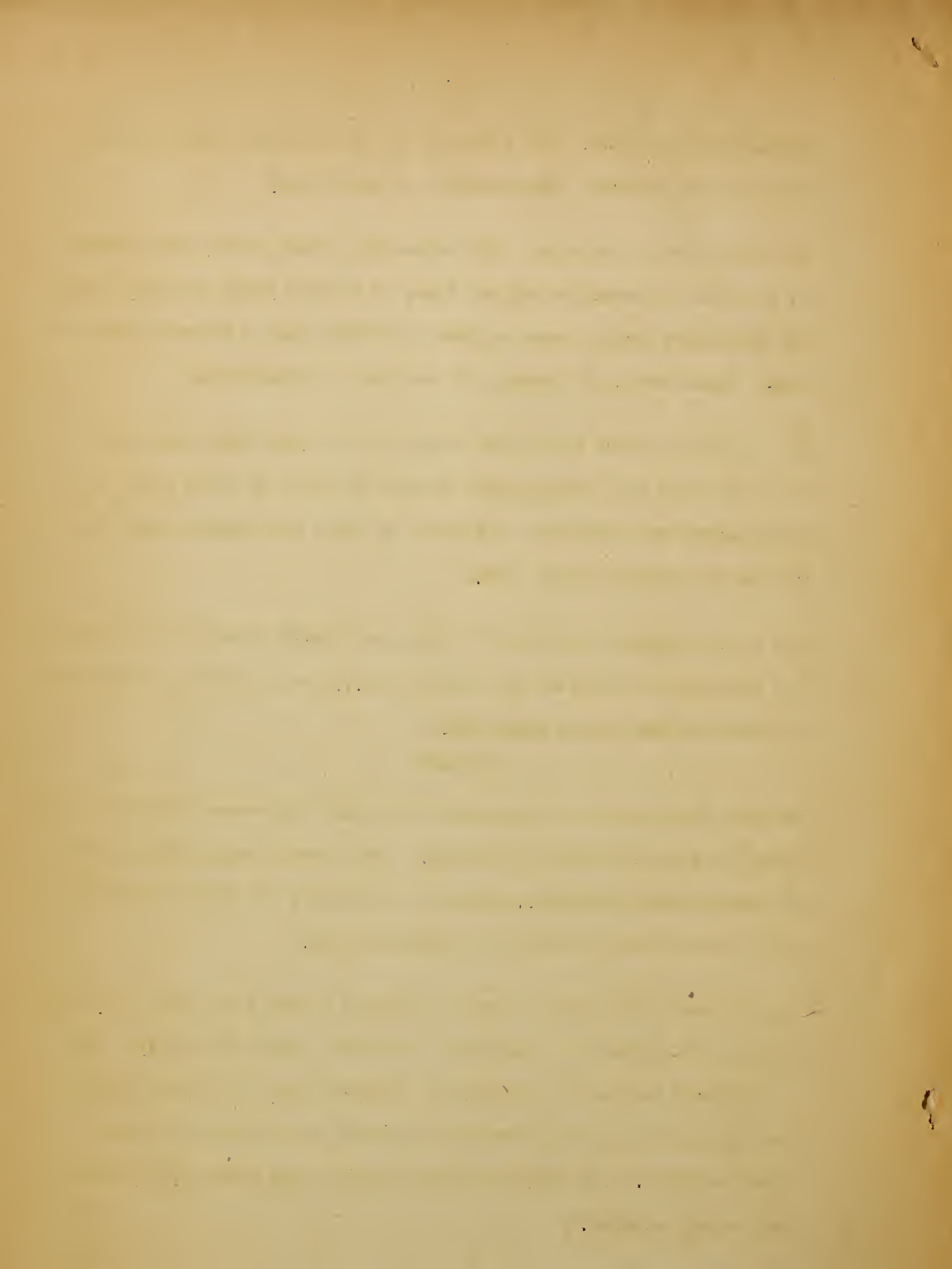
And here are the new rates: For butterfat, in all areas, the payment is 10 cents per pound in May and June; 13 cents a pound in July, August and September; and 17 cents a pound in October and on through March of 1946. These rates, of course, are subject to adjustments.

The new milk payment rates with variations for different areas are: 25 to 55 cents per hundredweight in May and June; 45 to 75 cents in July, August and September; and 60 to 90 cents per hundredweight in October and through March, 1946.

One of the primary objectives of this new payment program is to increase the production of milk in the butter areas...and to increase deliveries of butterfat for butter production.

And now, I'd like to tell you about the 1945 farm census which has been going on since the middle of January. This year's agricultural census is particularly important...because it will give us vital information about the productive capacity of American farms.

As you undoubtedly know, we have a national census every ten years. The agricultural census has been taken every five years since 1920. This is necessary because the Department of Agriculture, and other groups need this more current information on which to base their various annual estimates. In 1929, Congress passed a law making this five-year census mandatory.



It's hard to tell when the survey will be completed. On March 10th, the census takers were about a third finished. That means that about 36 per cent of the six million farms in this country had been covered. But because of bad weather...and the difficulty in some areas of getting people to do the job, the census takers have been held up somewhat. However, now that the spring weather is here...the work can move right along...and the completed census should yield some mighty important information on the changes wartime has brought about in the farms.

This information will be particularly useful to farmers in the post-war period. They can use it as a guide in planning acreage changes in particular crops...in studying markets...and as a basis for credit and similar transactions.

Industry will benefit by these 1945 farm census findings, too. They can be used to measure supplies of raw materials...and to determine the market of manufactured goods. And finally, the census will undoubtedly supply information very valuable to returned service men who want to go into farming.

And now, here's the latest information on storage apples. This spring, an unusually large stock of smaller and low grade apples are in storage. In order that these apples don't go to waste, the War Food Administration has taken steps to encourage their full use.

The War Food Administration will continue purchase of the apples for School Lunch Programs and other institutional feeding....And, it has

been announced that dried apples from the 1944 crop will be purchased at ceiling prices. These purchases will be based on the prices paid to growers by the processors.

Many of the apples stored in the Eastern area won't move into commercial channels because of their quality and size. But they are suitable for making apple butter...applesauce and similar products. So that these apples will be fully utilized as food, the War Food Administration has assured processors who handle them that they will buy chopped dried apples and similar products processed from the 1944 crop...after April 1st, 1945.

The War Food Administration will also purchase vinegar made from 1944 crop apples at the prevailing ceiling prices.

Homemakers are urged to take advantage of the apple plenty, to do some home canning right now. This is a good idea, especially since the fall apple crop is expected to be light due to the recent frosts. Home-canned apples will be useful for desserts, salads, and garnishes through the summer. And, home-canned apple sauce will give meals a lift, too. So use more apples...for mealtime variety now...and put them up for the months ahead.

In connection with home canning, we naturally think of Victory Gardens. They're mighty important in the food scheme of things...and President Truman, in a recent letter to Prentice Cooper, chairman of the National Advisory Garden Committee, emphasized once again what Victory Gardens

mean to the progress of the war. The President said that the need for food is greater now than ever before. Millions of families who grew Victory gardens last year did an excellent service in helping to solve our Nation's food problems. We must use this greater source of extra manpower to the fullest extent in 1945. There is a greater need now than at any time since the war began for more gardens...and better gardens, whether they are at home, in community plots, or in company-employed gardens. And this sums up the situation in the President's words. Victory gardens are vitally needed...and with more experience gained last year, gardeners should be able to raise the large garden crops which mean so much to our over-all food supplies.

And now, here are some important points to keep in mind until next month on the Agricultural Front. Victory in Europe is a foregone conclusion. Even with Germany's defeat, we still have a long row to hoe in the Pacific. The food needs of our armed forces...civilians, fighting allies and the liberated countries are still very real, and extremely pressing. We must not for a moment let down our efforts to produce more food...to meet the goals set for us. We must work to raise more Victory gardens...and better ones...We must put up foods for home use...That way, we can keep this the best-fed nation at war, and help to assure complete Victory over our enemies.

